GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2946
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003
DEMAND FOR INDIAN IRON ORE
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand for Indian iron ore is increasing from China and some other countries;

(b) if so, whether increasing freight rates have made Indian iron ore very competitive in the international market;

(c) if so, whether the government propose to open new iron ore mines in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the iron ore exported to various countries during the last three years, and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the export?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d): Government has no proposal of its own to open new iron ore mines. However, PSUsa such as National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) have been asked to increase their production in the existing mining leases.

(e) Details of iron ore export to various countries during the last three years are given below:

(Quantity: In Million Tonnes)

COUNTRY	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
CHINA	14.10	19.22	26.27
JAPAN	16.77	15.62	15.75
SOUTH KOREA	2.31	3.00	2.41
TAIWAN	0.90	0.43	0.58
EUROPE	1.48	1.81	2.04
OTHERS	1.93	1.56	1.00
TOTAL	37.49	41.64	48.02

(SOURCE: MMTC)

(f) Government has no proposal at present to take any specific steps to increase export of iron ore.